

Overview

This lesson is designed to teach students about eight holidays celebrated by different cultural groups in Kansas. Using information from the *Read Kansas* cards, students will practice sequencing instructions for a food recipe or craft item relating to that holiday. Making the craft and food item can be an extended activity. The lesson is organized seasonally so it can be used throughout the school year to teach the respective holidays.

Standards

History:

Benchmark 3, Indicator 3 The student explains customs related to holidays and ceremonies celebrated by specific cultural groups in Kansas (e.g., Kwanzaa, Cinco de Mayo, St. Patrick's Day, St. Lucia, Christmas, Ramadan, Lunar New Year, Hanukah)

Reading:

Benchmark 4, Indicator 7 The student sequences events and information in logical order.

Objectives

Content:

- The student will identify three holidays celebrated in Kansas.
- The student will explain at least three ways holidays are celebrated in Kansas.

Skills:

- The student will sequence instructions.

Essential Questions

- What holidays do you celebrate? What do you do that is special on that day?
- Why do people celebrate holidays?



Activities

This activity uses the following *Read Kansas* cards:

- Celebrating Ramadan
- Celebrating Hanukah
- Celebrating St. Lucia's Day
- Celebrating Christmas
- Celebrating Kwanzaa
- Celebrating Lunar New Year
- Celebrating St. Patrick's Day
- Celebrating Cinco de Mayo

Day 1

1. The class will be learning about eight holidays celebrated in Kansas, the United States, and sometimes around the world. Students will learn about different holidays and how some people celebrate these holidays. This lesson can be used throughout the school year to teach about a specific holiday close to the time it is to be celebrated. In most years the sequence will begin with Ramadan. It can be celebrated anytime between November and February.
2. The activities people do with their families or in their communities every year to celebrate a holiday are called "traditions." Introduce the lesson by having students name a holiday. Ask the students what they know about this holiday. What "traditions" do they follow? What "traditions" do they know that others follow in association with this holiday? You may want to do a KWL chart (what I know, what I want to know, what I learned) with each holiday.
3. Read the **Celebrating Ramadan** *Read Kansas* card to the class. Then give students a copy of the card to read for themselves. Ask the students to share what they have learned about Ramadan.
4. Introduce the **Celebrating Ramadan** worksheet. Working as a class, have students cut apart and then sequence the sentence strips.
5. Start a timeline on the wall with the months of the year. Place the **Celebrating Ramadan** *Read Kansas* card below the month in which it is celebrated. Place one completed worksheet under the *Read Kansas* card.
6. Repeat the above activity with each holiday over the course of the year.

Extended activities:

1. Make the recipe or craft project following the instructions on the *Read Kansas* cards and worksheets.
2. Students can practice sequencing information by writing directions or instructions on some topic of their choosing (e.g., baking a cake, playing a game, directions to their house from school, etc.).

Assessment

1. Evaluate the students' ability to properly sequence a "how to" worksheet.

For the Teacher

Sensitivity Alert: This lesson deals with ethnic and religious holidays. Each school district has its own policies about how holidays can be recognized. This lesson is to help you teach this history standard; it is not an endorsement. There are other ethnic and religious holidays that your students may celebrate. This lesson deals with only those holidays listed in the state standard.

When using this lesson, please avoid objectifying a student. Never assume that a specific student may celebrate a certain holiday because of his or her ethnicity or race. It is best to let the student share this information if he or she so desires. Do not directly ask the student to share what he or she knows about the holiday.

Timeline: The following is a tentative timeline for the holidays taught in this lesson. Since some of these holidays are based on the lunar new year, the date can change significantly from year to year. This timeline is based on the earliest date that the holiday is generally celebrated.

- Ramadan (November to February)
- Hanukah (November or December)
- St. Lucia's Day (December 13)
- Christmas (December 25)
- Kwanzaa (December 26 through January 6)
- Lunar New Year (January 21 to February 19)
- St. Patrick's Day (March 17)
- Cinco de Mayo (May 5)

Understanding Traditions: Much of what we learn, we learn from our families. Within the family we develop many of the attitudes, beliefs, and viewpoints that we carry throughout our lives. Tradition develops within a community of individuals and is transmitted through informal means, such as word of mouth or by example. The strength of family traditions is seen when a new family is formed. Disagreements often arise over family customs. How should holidays be celebrated? Are presents to be opened on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day? Is Thanksgiving always spent at grandmother's house? Is turkey or ham appropriate for Easter dinner? What we learn from our family consciously and subconsciously affects choices we make later in life. We usually feel very attached to our family traditions without always understanding why.

By definition, traditions are practices that have been passed down from earlier generations. Some remind us of happy memories. Others simply are practiced because we are used to doing things a certain way. This may include foods we eat, clothes we wear, songs we sing, holidays we celebrate, and how we treat each other within the family.

Although the people of Kansas come from diverse backgrounds, many of the state's cultural groups have assimilated into the culture at large. However, pockets of ethnic settlements can still be found within the state's borders. Czech, German, Mexican, Irish, Southeast Asian, and Swedish communities, to name a few, continue to exist. In these communities neighbors practice traditions that have their origins in other countries or their roots in history.

Additional background information on holidays:

Ramadan and Lunar New Year are two holidays that follow the lunar calendar. A lunar calendar is based on the phases of the Moon. This is different from the calendar that divides a year (365 days) into twelve months. The 12-month calendar is used by most of the world to mark time. As a result of using the lunar calendar the exact date these holidays are celebrated every year can vary greatly. It depends on the sighting of the Moon.

Phonetic Spelling of Words used in this set of *Read Kansas* cards:

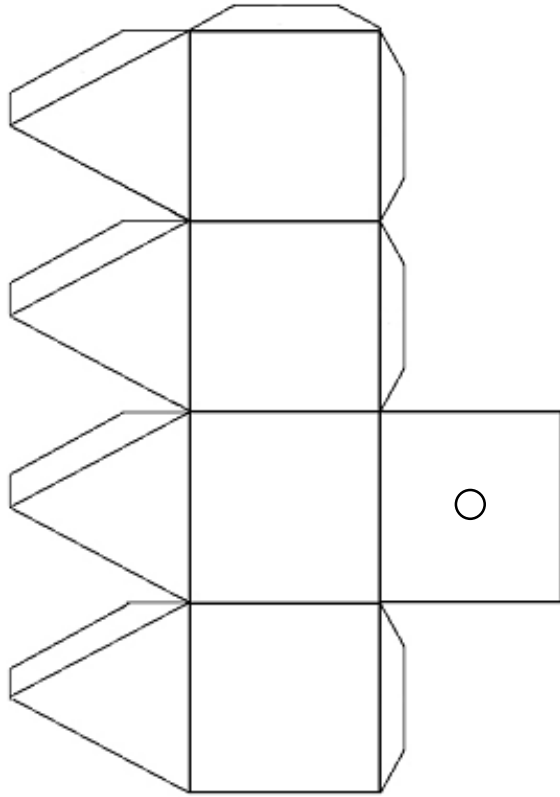
Ramadan [ram-uh-**dahn**]
Qur'an [koo-**rahn**]
Mubarak!" [moo-**bahr**-uh-k]
Iftar [if-tar]
Khatai [khat-**aa**-ee]
Hanukah [**khah**-nə-kuh]
Menorah [muh-**nawr**-uh]
dreidel [**dreyd**-l]
Lucia [**loo**-see-uh]
Kwanzaa [**kwahn**-zuh]
Swahili [swah-**hee**-lee]
kinara [**kee**-nah-rah]
Tet [têt]
Sol [sohl]
Losar [lo-**sar**]
Maewyn Succat [mah-eeoo-**een** suh **kaht**]
Cinco de Mayo [**seeng**-kaw da mah-yaw]
Puebla [**pwe**-blah]
Piñata [peen-**yah**-tuh]

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Resources for this lesson are from:

- Kansas State Historical Society collections
- Paul Cowan (Ramadan)
- Diane Labombarbe (Ramadan)
- Sara Showalter (Hanukah)
- James Steidl (Hanukah)
- Christine Ewing (St. Lucia's Day, Christmas, Lunar New Year)
- Shaun Lowe (Christmas)
- Terry White (Kwanzaa)
- Melanie Taylor (Kwanzaa)
- Christine Gonsalves (Lunar New Year)
- Jack Puccio (St. Patrick's Day)
- Jill Fromer (Cinco de Mayo)
- Aldo Murillo (Cinco de Mayo)

Templates for the Extended Activities:



Dreidel Pattern: enlarge 100%



Gimel



Hey



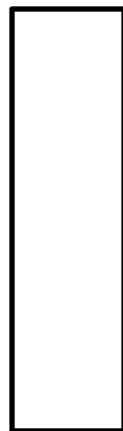
Nun



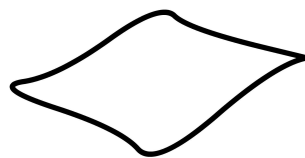
Shin

Dreidel letters—already to size

Candles—cut 5



Candle flame—cut 5



Leaves—cut as many as needed to cover band

St. Lucia crown templates: enlarge 100%

Celebrating Ramadan

Worksheet

These instructions on how to make Khatai Cookies are not in their correct order. Cut the title and the sentence strips apart. On a separate piece of paper, glue the title to the top of the page. Then arrange the sentence strips in their proper order. Number each sentence strip from 1 to 9.

Let the cookies cool before eating.

Add corn oil and mix well.

How to Make Khatai Cookies

Crush the cardamom and mix it with the white flour and sugar.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

Sprinkle finely ground pistachios on top of the cookies while they are still hot.

Roll small pieces of the dough into 2-inch round balls.

Cook for 15 minutes or until the cookies are lightly brown.

Place the balls of dough on a cookie sheet.

Celebrating Hanukah

Worksheet

These instructions on how to make a dreidel are not in their correct order. Cut the title and the sentence strips apart. On a separate piece of paper, glue the title to the top of the page. Then arrange the sentence strips in their proper order. Number each sentence strip from 1 to 6.

Cut out the dreidel pattern.

Push the straw or stick through the top until it touches the bottom point.

How to Make a Dreidel

Decorate the dreidel with the four symbols putting one on each side.

Copy the dreidel pattern onto heavy paper or thin cardboard.

Glue the flaps on the dreidel to make it into the shape of a top.

Celebrating St. Lucia's Day

Worksheet

These instructions on how to make a St. Lucia Crown are not in their correct order. Cut the title and the sentence strips apart. On a separate piece of paper, glue the title to the top of the page. Then arrange the sentence strips in their proper order. Number each sentence strip from 1 to 9.

Cut leaves out of green paper and glue them to the white paper band until the leaves cover it.

Glue the flames to the top of the candles.

Cut small red circles to look like berries.

Place the band around your head to measure. Then glue or staple the ends together.

Cut strips of heavy white paper for candles. Cut yellow paper into the shape of flames.

Cut a 2-inch wide strip of heavy white paper that is long enough to fit around your head.

Glue the candles to the inside of the paper band.

How to Make a St. Lucia Crown

Glue the berries onto the leaves.

Celebrating Christmas

Worksheet

These instructions on how to make a snowman ornament are not in their correct order. Cut the title and the sentence strips apart. On a separate piece of paper, glue the title to the top of the page. Then arrange the sentence strips in their proper order. Number each sentence strip from 1 to 9.

Cut a piece of ribbon and tie it into a loop. Glue the ribbon to the back of the hat to use to hang the ornament on the tree.

Let the starch dry. This is the snowman's face.

Cut the top from a small sock, just above the heel.

How to Make a Snowman Ornament

Let the paint on the face dry.

Use fabric paint and paint black dots for the mouth and eyes. Paint the carrot nose orange.

Brush fabric starch on the front and back of the cotton pad. Do one side at a time.

Tie a piece of ribbon to make a bow on the hat.

Glue the sock to the top of the face as a hat.

Celebrating Kwanzaa

Worksheet

These instructions on how to make a kinara are not in their correct order. Cut the title and the sentence strips apart. On a separate piece of paper, glue the title to the top of the page. Then arrange the sentence strips in their proper order. Number each sentence strip from 1 to 8.

Cut one black candle and make it the longest.

Using black construction paper cut out a seven-branch candlestick holder.

How to Make a Kinara

Glue a small piece of yellow tissue paper to the top of each candle.

Glue seven candles in the proper order onto the candlestick holder.

Cut out three red candles and three green candles.

Glue the candlestick holder to the poster paper.

The red and green candles should get shorter as they get farther from the center candle.

Celebrating Lunar New Year

Worksheet

These instructions on how to make a lantern are not in their correct order. Cut the title and the sentence strips apart. On a separate piece of paper, glue the title to the top of the page. Then arrange the sentence strips in their proper order. Number each sentence strip from 1 to 8.

Be careful not to cut all the way to the other edge of the paper.

How to Make a Chinese New Year Lantern

String the lanterns on yarn to decorate your classroom.

Cut a strip of paper about 6 inches long and one inch wide.

Unfold the paper and glue or staple the short edges of the paper together.

Staple the 6-inch strip across one end of the lantern to form a handle.

Carefully cut 1-inch strips into the folded edge.

Fold the construction paper in half along the long edges.

Celebrating St. Patrick's Day

Worksheet

These instructions on how to cook corned beef and cabbage are not in their correct order. Cut the title and the sentence strips apart. On a separate piece of paper, glue the title to the top of the page. Then arrange the sentence strips in their proper order. Number each sentence strip from 1 to 9.

Cover the meat and vegetables with cold water.

Cut the cabbage into quarters.

Remove the meat from the pan and cut it into slices.

Bring the water to a boil and then lower the heat and simmer for 1 hour.

Cook until the corned beef and vegetables are tender.

Serve the corned beef and vegetables with boiled potatoes.

How to Cook Corned Beef and Cabbage

Add the cabbage to the pot and cook for 1 or 2 hours.

Place the corned beef into a large pot with the carrots, onions, mustard powder, thyme, and parsley.

Celebrating Cinco de Mayo

Worksheet

These instructions on how to make a piñata are not in their correct order. Cut the title and the sentence strips apart. On a separate piece of paper, glue the title to the top of the page. Then arrange the sentence strips in their proper order. Number each sentence strip from 1 to 9.

Scrunch the squares of tissue paper around the eraser end of a pencil.

Fill the piñata with candy or other treats.

Cover the balloon with newspaper strips dipped in paper-mâché. Let this dry.

Reattach the small piece cut out of the piñata with glue or tape. Tie a string to hang the piñata.

Cut small squares of different colors of tissue paper.

How to Make a Piñata

Inflate a balloon.

Dip the middle of the scrunched tissue square into glue. Cover the balloon with tissue squares.

Cut out a small piece of the piñata using a knife or sharp scissors to make an opening.